

**Amendments to the Specification are as follows:**

Please amend the paragraph on page 23, line 14 as follows:

Since the width of the upstream-side sliding surface 412 is continuously decreased especially with the cut-out 421, the radius of curvature  $r$  at the upstream end 410c can be reduced smaller than that of the case of the magnetic head 100 described above.

Please amend the paragraph on page 26, line 15 as follows:

As shown in Fig. 10, it is understood that the foreign material adhesion amount be reduced with increasing  $\Delta r$ . If  $\Delta r$  is 0.1 mm, the foreign material adhesion amount is about 100 pieces/ $(\mu\text{m})^2$ , the damage of the medium sliding surface is within the allowable limit for such an adhesion amount, so that the recording and reproducing magnetic recording information can be performed without incident.